



Immigration Law

What would I do? Immigration law refers to the rules established by the federal government for determining who is allowed to enter the country, and for how long. It also governs the naturalization process for those who desire to become U.S. citizens. Finally, when foreign nationals enter without permission, overstay their visit, or otherwise lose their legal status, immigration law controls how the detention and removal proceedings are carried out. (<https://www.hg.org/immigration-law.html>)

Where would I practice? Many lawyers in immigration law are engaged in direct service work helping clients go through the right steps in obtaining the legal right to work or stay in the United States. Others work with the government on enforcement of immigration laws. Immigration lawyers work in **non-profit organizations, private immigration law firms**, or federal, state or local **government agencies**. (<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/careers/career-planning/practice-areas/immigration.cfm>)

What types of cases would I handle? (<http://www.lsac.org/jd/thinking-about-law-school/fields-of-law>)

- Asylum/Refugees
- Illegally Crossing U.S. Border
- Trafficking or Transporting Aliens into U.S.
- Deportation
- Legal Rights, Duties, and Obligations of Aliens in the U.S.
- Application Process and Procedures involved with Naturalization of Foreign Nationals

What schools in Florida specialize in this field of law?¹

School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law (Orlando)	-Immigration Clinic
Florida International University College of Law (Miami)	-Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic
Florida State University College of Law (Tallahassee)	-Immigration Externships
St. Thomas University School of Law (Miami)	-Immigration Clinic
Stetson University College of Law (Gulfport)	-Immigration Law Clinic
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	-Immigration Law Externship

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School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
University of Miami School of Law (Miami)	-Immigration Law Clinic
Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Tampa)	-Immigration Clinic ³

¹This is not an exhaustive list of Florida schools specializing in this field. **Although these schools offer specialty programs in this field, this does not mean you are unable to gain exposure to this field at another law school not listed above.**

²Information obtained through school website and officialguide.lsac.org

³This program is offered across WMU's regional campuses, contact the Tampa Bay, FL location to confirm its offering.

What are these “specialty programs?”

Specialty Program	Definition
Certificates	Specialization certificates allow JD students to focus their elective courses, build substantive knowledge and relevant skills, and enhance their resumes. Though specializations are not required for graduation, they can provide a guiding structure for exploration of various fields of law. With a variety of courses to choose from within each field, students can customize their specialization to their particular area of interest. (http://law.ggu.edu/academics/specialization-certificates/)
Clinics	At many law schools, clinical pedagogy is well established and robust. Typically clinics are focused in areas of law – civil or criminal litigation, civil rights litigation, or representation of community organizations. These clinics involve “live” clients with active legal matters. They include a classroom component and close supervision by a clinical faculty member. http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel
Concentrations	"While it is not the best comparison to make, a Concentration is similar to a major in undergraduate studies, in that a student with a specific interest in a field can do focused study in that field. A major difference though, is that students who graduate law school with a Concentration will have the same degree as those without a Concentration, a juris doctor, that will be viable in any area of law in which they wish to practice." (http://www.lls.edu/academics/concentrations/)

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Specialty Program	Definition
Externships	<p>Today, accepted externship pedagogy involves faculty instruction in a classroom component to every externship opportunity, and some training for the practitioner supervising attorneys. Further, while externships used to include the equivalent of 3-5 credit hours of work outside the law school, an emerging form of externship involves the student spending the entire semester, and 15 credits, working onsite on an externship assignment.</p> <p>(http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel)</p>
Practicum	<p>In practicum classes law students get hands-on learning working under the supervision of attorneys and professors in a non-lawyering role as they work on cases and practica give students insight into a specific area of legal interest and a window into what it is like to practice in that area.</p> <p>(http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships)</p>